Tropics.

A Valuable Article on the Productive

Resources of Various Cane-

Producing Centers.

In the Political Science Quarterly for

December Prof. John F. Crowell de-

scribes the present condition of the

cane sugar industry in tropical coun-

tries, with special reference to the

European competition of the beet su-

gar product and to the probable effect

of the recent acquisition of the cane

growing countries by the United

After reviewing the situation in de-

tail in these various countries, the

of foreign supply in meeting domestic

consumption. The total product of su-

gar in 1899 from all the sources under

the control of the United States, in-

cluding cane, beet, maple and sor-

ghum, is barely 1,000,000 tons, while

the country consumes 2,000,000 tons

Production in Hawaii has been stim-

ulated under reciprocity arrangements

for the past twenty years, but all her

natural cane lands are now under cul-

tivation and probably the limit of pre-

duction has been reached. The annual

The Philippines annually produce

Except in the Island of Negros,

where European mills exist, the meth-

ods of cultivation and of manufacture

are antiquated and therefore expens-

ive; and estates are small, not more

than a dozen producing 1,000 tons of

sugar per year, though this is the daily

product of many Cuban factories. "The

labor problem," says Professor Worces-

ter. "is a most serious one, because

of the ease with which the natives of

the tropics can get a livelihood and

native labor to its contract. Importa-

tion of Chinese labor into the Philip-

pines is fraught with social dangers."

In Cuba the year before the insur-

rection broke out, the product amount-

ed to more than 1,000,000 tons. Last

In Puerto Rico the sugar industry is

nearer dead than alive; for though it

still yields annually about 50,000 tons,

its methods are as backward as those

of most of the older cane sugar isl-

ands in the West Indies. The land sys-

tem, the labor system, and the trans-

port facilities, as well as the methods

of manufacture, are such as, under modern conditions of competition, must

bankrupt any industry. The redeem-

ing feature is the presence of the thousands of small peasant holdings, occu-

pled by households accustomed to cul-

In Puerto Rico, as in Cuba, the su-

sounder economic basis if it ever re-

gains its former prestige. And no ba-

does not encourage native proprietor-

from whatever country is willing to

lend its subjects to such exploitation.

But we are pledged to administer these

islands in the interest of their native

peoples. Of all the difficulties in the

problem and the labor problem are

he most formidable. We must never

forget that the collapse of Spanish do-

minion was equally the collapse of an

old economic regime, tottering on the verge of dissolution from the exhaus-

tion of capital and of labor, even at

the time of its output of over 1,000,000

There is as yet no adequate econom-

ic analysis of Cuban conditions fur-

nishing facts from which one could

deduce the outlines of a rational sugar

policy for the United States to follow.

Yet the writers of books on Cuba give

glimpses of conditions that clip the

the conclusion that nothing short of a

thorough-going transformation of the

relations of the people to the land will

of Cuba, under the quickening impulse

of capital. If, therefore, the United

States proposes to administer her new

territory in the interest of the native

population, it will be necessary to place

the permanent welfare of all economic

interests above the speedy exploitation

of land and labor in the interest of

immediate returns upon capital. This

policy will take time, policy and faith

as the elements required to relay

ricultural Cuba. For Cuba is far above

all else agricultural, not commercial or

industrial; and to agriculture must we

look for the key to the tropical sugar

As things stand now, Germany con-

tinues to control the world's sugar

situation-not because of any superior-

present conditions of the trade.

situation, here as elsewhere,

aright the economic foundations of ag-

tons of sugar a year (1894-95).

way of Cuban restoration the land

year is was 300,000 tons.

tivate canes.

the consequent difficulty of holding

product is now about 250,000 tons.

annually.

about 250,000 tons.

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EUROPE VS. ENGLAND

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Situation In the of conquest, making out of the Transvaal an object lesson for their future exploits. The present Transvaal war is practically a step in the mobilization of all the forces of the British Empire, the colonial forces included. It imports, likewise, the denying to the colonies of a right to a separate life, to separate interests: all life, all interests

must be sacrificed for the English ideal. It is notorious that for a number of years the leading English statesmen have persistently put forward the idea of the colonies co-operating in the defense of the Empire. The Transvaal, in case of the success of British arms, is destined to be a second Alsace and Lorraine, which formed the cornerstone of the vast building of the German Empire; the Transvaal is a rallying point for the colonial forces.

"He who has drunk blood shall drink it again!" As the Prussians, after the war with Denmark, fought the Austrians and then the French, so England, after fighting the Transvaal, will have a ready weapon to fight in any direction that may be thought necessary. The central power in London writer considers the part which the will simply turn the fighting energies United States and her tropical depend- of the colonies in the direction selected: to North Africa, to the Persian Gulf. encies are now playing, or are about to Arabia, to Abyssinia, to China, to to play, in the development of the Canada, to Nicaragua, etc. The Encane industry. This, he admits, is glish politicians will, with the greatest problematic. It will probably be some ease, bring pressure to bear on all time before we shall be independent points of the globe, when required.

So much for England, in case of her success in the campaign. But the character and scope of this success will in the long run depend on the attitude of the world's Powers.

The two crucial questions, for the present, are these: Will the Powers realize the full meaning of the present English move? and, Will they play the English game?

trying to create an antagonism between Germany and Russia?

I do not believe in it, and for the following reasons. Germany has nothing whatever to gain by an antagonistic policy toward Russia. All the efforts of the German Empire are directed toward gaining full access to the seas and increasing its naval power. By spreading to the north, in the direction of Holland, Germany comes into collision with the English, as she is sure to do in the south, if the Germans ventured to find open access to the Medi-

The second task, in the Mediter-

terranean.

ranean, is rendered impossible to Germany by England's little game with poor Italy. Coupled with the Anglo-German commercial rivalry, this antagits future developments, and it also shows that unfriendly relations military resources at home. with Russia would not "pay" Germany. The political aims of Russia and Germany are identical without coming anywhere into collision. The Russlans and the Germans "seek the seas" , in their own separate spheres. This antagonism of Russian and German aims to those of England must necessarily underlie the relations between Russia and Germany, whatever aspect these relations may at any time acquire for the moment. It is true that both countries, Germany and Russia, are capable of creating many difficulties for to reckon with their respective positions in Europe, and they are bound to keep an eye-ay, both eyes-on En-The events in the Far East gar industry must be recognized on a offer an example of the position sketched above. England dared not answer to the seizure of Kiao-Tchao and the sis of development will be solid which Emperor's speech at Kiel, because she feared that Russia supported Germany; on the other hand, English politicians ship in land as a cornerstone. The would not adopt an openly aggressive wage system cannot develop the norattitude toward Russia in China, bemal degree of economic resources in tropical labor. It may extinguish nacause they secretly believed in a probable rupture between Germany and tive labor, as has been done largely in Hawaii in the interest of the sugar in- Russia. The English were mistaken:

dustry, by importing migratory hordes nobody in Europe wishes to fight their Whatever, therefore, may be the compensation that England is ready to pay to Germany for her benevolent attitude in the present campaign, it is plain that by associating herself with England, Germany would be carrying on a suicidal policy; would weaken herself by aiding in their designs the English statesmen, who are directing the policy of a State far superior to Germany as a world-wide Empire. True, we read in the papers about an Anglo-German arrangement in the question of Samoa, about Togoland, Zanzibar and the Portuguese African colonies. But this is nothing else than a repetition of the fable of the robber who stole a cow and gave his comrade the milk-jug. Germany cannot rest satisfied with the milk-jug in the form of concessions in Zanzibar, when Enwings of prophecy, and force upon us gland takes to herself the cow of the fable, the whole of South Africa, thereby strengthening the English position in the Indian Ocean and rendering almost useless the German colonies in suffice to develop the sugar resources

East Africa. The question which now faces the European Powers is: Can the strengthening of England on the Indian Ocean leave them indifferent; can the balance of power in the vicinity of the Ottoman Empire and in the Far East be disturbed? And all the world Powers have likewise to answer another question: How shall the putting forth by England of her colonial forces affect them?

The second question I have already answered, and it will aid me in replying to the first if I say that the Transvaal war, coming as it does after the Soudan campaign, gives unmistakable evidence that it is a career of conquest that they have begun in London. If the English were anxious about their commercial interests, they would not go to war, as all the principal ports and harbors of Africa are in their

ty over the tropics in machinery, nor ecause of the advantage of fiscal bounties over tropical resources of the The first question as to the attitude soil, but because all the natural adlikely to be assumed by the European vantages under the prevailing slipshod Powers in the present struggle affords methods of tropical cane cultivation me the opportunity of stating that now are more than counterbalanced by the is the moment when Russia, Germany scientific methods of European agricul- and France, with their diplomacy, are ture applied to beet-farming. When brought simultaneously into promthe tropics apply to the cultivation of inence, and it is with them that the canes (which covers half of the cost of producing sugar) the same degree of doubt about the attitude of Russia and scientific attention that has been given | France, the former having to secure to the methods of manufacturing the her interests in the Persian Gulf and canes into sugar, then-and not until Abyssinia, and the latter, notwiththen—need the beet-sugar interests of Standing her possessions in Madagas-Europe look to their laurels under the car, Siam and Indo-China, not being The Alliance A even consulted by England before the don.

commencement of the present war. There may be some doubt as to the final attitude of Germany, but the interests of the latter will bring her in the long run into line with the two former Powers.

France a Stumbling Block.

Supposing, however, there were some doubts on this point, I think they would be disposed of if it were made clear to the minds of European diplomats that the question put before them is nothing else than the existence of France.

In the sphere of colonial interests, the French Republic blocks the way to the expansion of the British Empire, and is met by the latter on every point of the globe. Were it not for France the British diplomats would not care a straw about Germany, so far have they surpassed her in the race for colonies. But having to fight France, the English are bound to conciliate Germany in the same manner as they lately pushed forward Italy in China. The existence of France is now at stake. the more so as Madagascar lies on the way from South Africa to the East; and we hope that Emperor William will not repeat the mistakes of Napoleon III. England is playing with Germany the same game as that played in the former days by Bismarck, who endeavored to lull the suspicions of the French Emperor while the "Iron Chancellor" was at work in the north and in the south of Prussia building up an empire. Napoleon was so short-sighted that he even fought the battles of

England against Russia in the Crimea and finally got his due. In the present case, England realizes plainly that an assault on France, bringing her within the sphere of English political combinations, would give the English new vigor and colonial possessions and restore to Great Britain the political power which, according to some, is shifting to the West and to the East. Such an assault on France, however, no responsible politician of Germany and Russia would tolerate. When I say assault I mean not only actual war-What of the success of England in fare, but an attempt to crush by political pressure the political power of France for English benefit as well. Were this to be allowed, the power of resistance of the European Continent to England's encroachments would be diminished, and, in consequence, Germany's power would also be on the wane; the great fleets of Germany are things of the distant future.

Probable Combination of Powers.

The immediate future holds a probability of some combination of Powers, when the idea gains ground that the balance of power is disturbed, in the Indian Ocean and in the countries lying in its vicinity, and that the growth of the colonial military forces of Great Britain is a standing menace to the onism between the political aims of whole world. Nobody can tell in what Great Britain and Germany goes a long direction the colonial regiments will be sent next time especially when Great Britain is on the eve of developing her

At any rate, whatever the issue of the present campaign, whether it be favorable to England or not, all the attention of the world Powers must be centered now on the Indian Ocean. Some action is imperative in this direction. What form this action shall take is a matter of secondary interest.

As to the effect which the criminal campaign against the Transvaal may have on the English people themselves, I will say this: The good angel of England is flown away; Gladstone is dead, quite dead, and now his countryone another, but they will always have men are it the act of driving new and heavy nails into his coffin in order to hold its lid well down.

VLADIMIR HOLMSTREM. P. S.—I approve Mr. Holmstrem's ideas on the subject of which he treats.

PRINCE OOKHTOMSKY.

"Strawberries from Florida came in-to the market with such a rush at the end of last week as to glut the market." says the New York Times. "The result was that the surplus had to be sold for what it would fetch, and the fruit got into the hands of the hawkers and was selling on the streets at twenty-five cents a basket yesterday, the baskets being of the sort that are crdinarily called quarts. Men who have been in the fruit trade for many years say that this is the first time that strawberries have ever been hawked about the streets of New York in the month of January.

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